

ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009, 6:30 PM
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

The School Committee met on Monday, February 9, 2009 at 6:30 PM at the High School Library. Committee members present were: Mr. Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mills, and Mr. Mullen. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, Mr. Scarpelli, Assistant Superintendent, and Mrs. Cusick.

Present in the audience were Mrs. McGrath, Esten School Principal; Mr. Kohn, Jefferson School Co-Principal; Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Gibson; Ms. Learning, Esten School teacher; Mr. Haggerty, Middle School teacher; and citizens broadcasting for WRPS/TV.

The Chairman welcomed Christopher Rice and Ryan Ellis, Student Representatives, to the meeting.

Mr. Norris noted that Mrs. Werkheiser was absent due to illness.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee meeting of January 26, 2009 were accepted.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the minutes of the regular meeting of January 26, 2009 were accepted.

The Superintendent commended the Rockland Public Schools students for their excellent demeanor at the parade for Specialist Pollini. The students represented the schools in an outstanding manner. Superintendent Retchless reported on the Grade 8 Open House that was held recently. The event was well attended by teachers, parents, and students. The Superintendent reported that the Job Shadow Program will be held on February 10, 11 and 12 with over seventy students participating.

A request from the Project Bread to distribute flyers at the elementary and middle schools and to post at the high school was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous.

On four motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following January Monthly Reports were approved:

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| 1) Administrators | Mr. Sangster, Mr. Stanish, Mrs. McGrath,
Mr. Kohn/Dr. Levine, Mrs. Sheehan |
| 2) Guidance | Mrs. Cann |
| 3) Nurse | Mrs. Ryan |
| 4) Pupil Personnel Services | Ms. Salem |

On five separate motions by Mr. Mullen, seconds by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the following Security Trailer Reports for January were accepted:

- 1) Almshouse
- 2) Esten
- 3) Hartsuff Park
- 4) Jefferson
- 5) Memorial Park

The following February Newsletters were noted:

- 1) Esten
- 2) Jefferson
- 3) Memorial Park
- 4) Middle School

Building Rentals for January were noted.

Mr. Kohn, Jefferson School Co-Principal gave the Committee an overview of the Reader Rabbit Computer Program including a showing of examples. The program is designed for Grade 1 and 2 students and is used in school only. There is a section for students to choose a story mode or a practice mode and also a section for teachers to assess student's progress. Grades 3 through 5 move on to the Study Island Computer Program.

Mr. Retchless updated the Committee on the activities of the School Building Committee noting that the Feasibility Study document has been signed and returned to the MSBA. The Committee is still waiting to hear about Dore & Whittier's selection as the architect for the Building Project.

Mrs. Learning, Esten School teacher, presented The Story of Frog Hollow Pond as Told by Mr. Toad book to the Superintendent and explained that the book, which describes the creation of the Peace Garden at Esten School, is dedicated to several environmental partners who helped with this project.

The Superintendent noted that the Override Election is scheduled for May 30 and Town Meeting is May 4. Superintendent Retchless has addressed the staff at Jefferson, Middle School, Esten and several PACs to update them on the override subject. The REA will be negotiating shortly and RIF language will be included.

The 2007 School Committee and Superintendent's Annual Reports were noted.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve an out-of-state field trip to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH for Grade 5 band students. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

The Superintendent reviewed the local aide cuts for the Town in the amount of \$323,000. The school department's share is \$100,000 for the FY09 budget. These cuts will be in the areas of: school security, behavior consultant/SPED, athletics, custodian, supplies & materials and maintenance. Class sizes will not be affected.

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Gibson presented the Committee with a summary of their donation of the Esten School Creative Work Center which is a digital imaging program. Mr. Gibson will install the equipment and give technical support for the program. The Committee thanked the Gibsons for their continued support of the Rockland Public Schools. On the motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous, it was voted to accept the donation and to send a thank you letter to the Gibsons.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to approve the proposed fundraisers for the three elementary.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve the proposed fund raiser for the RHS Key Club. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Thomas F. Mills, Jr.', is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.
Secretary